

To the commissioners for the determination of the United Wambo open cut project. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present to you my support for this joint venture mining project. I am an employee of Peabody Energy Australia and have previously been an employee of Glencore Coal Assets Australia, therefore I am able to speak of both company's environmental stewardship and good corporate citizenship of both mining companies. I have witnessed both Glencore Australia and Peabody Energy Australia demonstrate a genuine regard for the communities in which they operate, and both companies are the financial supporters of many local level grass roots community and local sporting organisations. The Wambo Open Cut and Underground projects have had a long-standing relationship with the local Hunter Valley community having been in operation for 50 years as of 2019. The economic benefits to the NSW state government and the Local Hunter Valley community are evident during 2018 the Wambo mining complex invested:

- \$39.9 million in direct royalty payments to the NSW state government, this money would have allowed the state to pay for vital front-line infrastructure and services such as emergency services, schools hospitals and infrastructure networks throughout the region and the state of NSW.
- \$68.5 million was invested in 194 local Hunter Valley businesses through the procurement of goods and services, this money allowed local Hunter Valley business to create local jobs and support local families.
- \$141.9 million spent on the procurement of goods and services from other NSW businesses.
- \$52.7 million on employees' wages and salaries, this money is reinvested back into the local communities of Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland and Newcastle the primary residence of the 390 current employees of the Wambo complex.

It is to this fact I want to emphasise today, the people that work at the Wambo complex like myself we aren't a transient work force, we live locally, spend locally and are community focused, we raise our families here in the Hunter Valley and have a deep admiration for the local area and its beautiful environment. We have an invested interest to protect the local area we live and work within and want to see our community prosper. As an example, I am currently studying a double Bachelor of Science with majors in viticulture and wine science because I am passionate about this area and the local wine industry. Please also understand that coal mining is in many cases more than simply a job to us, for many families mining is a multi-generational legacy and is much a way of life for many of us as it is a way of earning a living. This United Wambo joint venture upon approval being granted will in addition to the jobs currently occupied add a further 250 local long-term roles as well as many construction roles to build the infrastructure required to accommodate the scope of the project. The forward estimate of the financials for the brownfield's extension are as follows:

- An additional 150 ROM tonnes over the life of the project, generating an additional \$370 million (\$817 million in total) to the NSW state government in royalty payments.
- \$413 million in net economic benefit to the wider NSW community.
- Increase the Gross Regional Product by approximately \$2.1 billion over the life of the project and increase the NSW Gross Regional Product (which include the Hunter region) by approximately \$3 billion over the life of the project
- Flow on effects local communities from investment of workers' salaries and local businesses that the project will procure goods and services from throughout the life of the project also.

The main environmental aspects for the United Wambo project simply outlined are:

1. The final void number currently stands at two and will remain unchanged at two.
2. Both sites have been subjected to mining activities previously, approval for this project is based on brownfields mining project.
3. Should the project not gain approval both sites will rehabilitate their respective leases individually as per their environmental responsibilities, the result will be two rehabilitated final landforms as opposed to a more aesthetically pleasing and functional single rehabilitated landform, as a result of combining the leases.
4. The joint venture team have been investing money purchasing quality parcels of Central Hunter Eucalypt Forrest for conservation and protection to offset the proposed minimal mining disturbance of the project.
5. Peabody Energy already works tirelessly to ensure the site generated dust and noise levels are at a minimal level, in keeping with respect for the environment and local communities and will only get better as new technologies emerge during the life of the project.

In conclusion I sincerely hope that this board will seek to expediate the approval of this quality project for consideration, there are clear economic benefits for the local area, local businesses and wealth generation for the state economy. The joint venture team have worked tirelessly to ensure all environmental aspects of the project are not only met but, in many cases, exceeded. It is also important to ensure the environmental claims from both sides is grounded in good science that is repeatable and proven to ensure validity. This project will be a great endorsement by the state government into the local Hunter Valley mining communities after some tough times during the last few years and the down turn in mining, the industry is yet again showing it resilience and the Hunter Valley coal mining sector is once again proving it is the engine room of the NSW states

prosperity. My family and that of many of my friends derive our primary sources of income from the Wambo mining complex presently and we look forward to with the approval of the project being able to reinvest back into our local Hunter Valley communities. Thank you again members of the board for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of the United Wambo Joint Venture Project.